

Reserve Act to prohibit certain financial service providers who deny fair access to financial services from using taxpayer funded discount window lending programs, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 628

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 628, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 632

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, and for other purposes.

S. 636

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 636, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, and for other purposes.

S. 675

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 675, a bill to provide for the reporting to State and local law enforcement authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. PETERS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish a vaccine for COVID-19 to certain individuals who are not enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

At the request of Mr. KELLY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, *supra*.

S. RES. 34

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 34, a resolution recognizing the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 35, a resolution condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 37, a resolution expressing solidarity with the San Isidro Movement in Cuba, condemning escalated attacks against artistic freedoms in Cuba, and calling for the repeal of laws that violate freedom of expression and the immediate release of arbitrarily detained artists, journalists, and activists.

S. RES. 96

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 96, a resolution designating March 8 through March 14, 2021, as "Women of the Aviation Workforce Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 697. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate Harriet Tubman, one of the most notable individuals in Maryland's history. Congress began officially recognizing March 10th as Harriet Tubman Day in 1990 and I am always grateful to speak to her accomplishments. Throughout her life she served as an abolitionist, soldier, spy and, most famously, as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. I would like to reflect on her contributions to human rights, civil rights, and women's rights in our Nation and to renew my commitment

to addressing the shameful legacy of slavery in Maryland and across the U.S.—particularly as it pertains to environmental justice.

Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross to enslaved parents in Bucktown, Maryland in 1822. After emancipating herself, she dedicated her life to the advancement of freedom and the fight against slavery. Araminta adopted the name "Harriet" at the time of her marriage to John Tubman, a free Black man, around the year 1844. Tubman and her husband continued to live in Dorchester County until her escape from slavery in 1849, at the age of 27. She would courageously return to make over thirteen dangerous trips to lead nearly 70 enslaved people seeking freedom, repeatedly risking her life in pursuit of our Nation's highest aspirational ideal.

Throughout the American Civil War, Tubman served the Union at various times as a cook, nurse, scout, and even spy. She helped orchestrate the Combahee River raid in South Carolina that freed over 700 enslaved men, women, and children. After the war's end, Harriet focused her efforts on women's suffrage. In 1908, Tubman established the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged in Auburn, New York. Five years later, she died of pneumonia on March 10, 1913. Although she spent her final decades in New York, the marshes and forests of Maryland's Eastern Shore are where Harriet Tubman first grew spiritually and physically strong.

Harriet Tubman made an indelible impact on my State and our Nation's history and I am proud to have played a role in memorializing her story to future generations. I worked to secure the authorities and funding for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway, which tells the story of her life in Dorchester and Caroline counties, and for the Harriet Tubman Underground National Historical Park. The National Park Service administers the national historical park Congress created in December 2014 and the national monument authorized by President Obama in 2013 as a single unit. The Park Service works in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, and the State of Maryland, which owns and co-manages the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, to commemorate and interpret Tubman's remarkable story. Visitors can access the marshlands, largely preserved since her time, at the Visitor Center and nearby Refuge. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park centers her life's work not in physical structures, but instead through the landscape in Tubman's native Dorchester County, which we must defend against the social and ecological hazards of climate change.

While climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale. Dorchester County's low-lying landscape of

tidal marshes, narrow peninsulas, and country roads linking isolated communities is threatened by sea level rise and land subsidence. Over one-half of the county lies in the 100-year floodplain, much of it in the tidal floodplain; even minor storms and routine high-tide events can flood vast portions of the county. In addition to flooding, saltwater intrusion threatens the failure of rural septic systems, and damage to roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure. Climate-driven changes to the coastal ecosystem are also making it harder to earn a living through the primary local sources of income: agriculture, forestry, and the seafood industry.

Local communities are at the front-line of adaptation, and initial social inequality causes the disadvantaged groups in those communities to suffer disproportionately from the adverse effects of climate change, resulting in greater subsequent inequality. Dorchester County is no exception. After the Civil War, freedmen and women settled the land, which was often less arable and therefore more affordable. Today, the county has a population of 32,000, 26 percent of whom are Black. Black individuals are almost twice as likely to be unemployed or live below the federal poverty level as their white neighbors, attributable to systemic racism that has roots in Harriet Tubman's time of enslavement. The Union of Concerned Scientists developed a Climate Equity Tool to identify communities that face conditions that heighten their vulnerability to harm and are therefore high-risk environmental justice areas, including Dorchester County. UCS projects that the county will see a six-inch rise in sea level by 2030 and 13-inch rise by 2045.

Absent national or international climate policy direction under the Trump administration, cities and towns on the Eastern Shore and around the world have been focusing on solving their own climate problems. They are working to build flood defenses, plan for heatwaves and higher temperatures, install water-permeable pavement to better deal with floods and stormwater, and improve water storage and use. Dorchester County has a flood mitigation plan that identifies projects to protect resources at risk of being lost, including historic and cultural sites. However, implementation of such plans requires significant funding. It is essential that Congress enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities in Dorchester County and across the Eastern Shore—and the Nation—whose residents have been forced to manage periodic flooding and other climate impacts in relative social and political isolation. Frontline communities in Dorchester and neighboring Eastern Shore counties with strong historical and cultural ties require sufficient federal financial and technical assistance now to help plan for the future and make choices about how best to protect themselves from tidal flooding,

saltwater intrusion, and coastal disasters.

Environmental justice is an essential component to carry on with respect to the anti-racist work that Harriet Tubman pioneered. The American Rescue Plan Act will provide debt relief and assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who have faced disproportionate impacts from the pandemic as a result of longstanding discrimination, as well as \$50 million in funding to reduce the air pollution that is linked with contributing to COVID-19 deaths, targeted to low income communities and communities of color. These provisions present only a small down payment on the types investments needed to address inequality, and have yet to squarely address climate change.

The local communities on the Eastern Shore that served as Harriet Tubman's training ground in resistance are rarely credited for their outsized influence on Maryland's maritime industry, culture, and environment. We must do better to enshrine their place in our historical consciousness and provide them with the tools necessary to prepare for climate change. I am grateful for the opportunity to showcase the exceptional efforts of one particular Marylander and honor her by pursuing climate and environmental justice policies.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 723. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the PPP Extension Act of 2021. I'm pleased to be joined in introducing this bill by my colleagues, Senators CARDIN and SHAHEEN. Last March, the three of us, along with Senator RUBIO, formed a Small Business Task Force that crafted the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)—a forgivable loan program designed to help keep small employers afloat and their employees paid during the pandemic. The bipartisan bill that we are introducing today would simply extend the current application deadline for new PPP loans from March 31st to May 31st of this year, and then provide an additional 30-day period during which time the Small Business Administration may continue processing applications received prior to the new May 31st deadline. Representatives VELÁZQUEZ, LUETKEMEYER, BOURDEAUX, and KIM (CA) have introduced a companion bill in the House.

The PPP has been hugely successful in helping our Nation's small businesses and nonprofits survive the pandemic and continue paying their employees. In 2020, more than five million small employers received forgivable PPP loans, helping to sustain upwards of 50 million American jobs. This in-

cludes more than 28,000 Maine small businesses, who received nearly \$2.3 billion in forgivable PPP loans.

Recognizing the importance of this program for our Nation's small employers, the bipartisan December 2020 COVID-relief law provided an additional \$284.5 billion to reopen the Paycheck Protection Program and allow the hardest hit small employers to receive a second forgivable loan. The December law also made other improvements to the PPP, such as expanding forgivable overhead expenses to include supplier costs and investments in facility modifications and personal protective equipment needed to operate safely.

Since reopening in January, more than two million additional forgivable loans—totaling nearly \$165 billion—have been approved for small businesses across the Nation. In Maine, more than 10,000 small employers have been approved for more than \$692 million in forgivable loans since PPP's reopening. In total, Maine small employers have been approved for nearly \$3 billion in forgivable loans since the program was created last year.

I have heard from countless small employers about the impact this program has had on them and their employees. The owner of Shipyard Brewing Company in Portland told me that without the relief that PPP provided, his company would be bankrupt. The Ecology School, a non-profit environmental education program in Saco, would have had to lay off the majority of its staff without the support of two forgivable PPP loans. I've heard from the owners of Jeff's Catering in Brewer, the Poland Spring Resort, and the Hamilton Marine in Searsport that PPP helped keep their businesses alive and their employees paid.

With the ongoing distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the promise of warmer weather throughout the Nation, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We're not there yet, which is why we need to extend the deadline to apply for new loans. Extending the deadline would also help address concerns I continue to hear from Maine small employers about delays in the processing of new loan applications because of difficulty in resolving error messages generated by the Small Business Administration computer system.

By extending the PPP for another two months and then providing an additional 30 days after that time for the SBA to process applications that are still pending, this bill would help our Nation's small employers retain access to forgivable PPP loans. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 105—CON-
DEMNING THE COUP IN BURMA
AND CALLING FOR MEASURES
TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE
BURMESE PEOPLE, INCLUDING
ROHINGYA, WHO HAVE BEEN
THREATENED AND DISPLACED
BY A CAMPAIGN OF GENOCIDE
CONDUCTED BY THE BURMESE
MILITARY

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 105

Whereas, on February 1, 2021, the Government of Burma was overthrown by the Burmese army, or Tatmadaw, returning the same army responsible for the genocidal military campaign against the Rohingya people to a greater position of power and authority, at least temporarily;

Whereas the hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens who have taken peacefully to the streets to protest the coup have been met with increasingly brutal displays of force by the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force, and over 50 citizens have been killed to date;

Whereas, since the February 2021 coup, the Tatmadaw-enforced media and communications blackouts and travel limits are limiting the ability of journalists and humanitarian actors to provide services or monitor the safety and security of people across Burma, including approximately 600,000 Rohingya remaining in Rakhine State;

Whereas media reports that the Burmese military have recently blocked shipments of humanitarian assistance intended for persons displaced by the ongoing offensive and militarization in the ethnic states;

Whereas recently announced United States sanctions target Tatmadaw actors specifically for their role in the coup, but ethnic minorities living within Burmese borders have suffered a wide range of systematic abuse and discrimination for many years;

Whereas, since August 25, 2017, approximately 740,000 Rohingya have fled from Burma to escape the Burmese military and security force's well-documented and systematic campaign of persecution and atrocities;

Whereas most of the Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh, resulting in the creation of the world's largest and most densely populated refugee camp, while others escaped to India, Thailand, Malaysia, and other parts of South and Southeast Asia;

Whereas, on December 3, 2018, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum concluded that "there is compelling evidence that the Burmese military committed ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and genocide against the Rohingya";

Whereas the May 2019 Amnesty International report on war crimes in Rakhine State outlines continued human rights violations, including "indiscriminate attacks" on civilians, and expresses alarm about the impact of continued fighting on the food security of Rakhine State;

Whereas then-United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein

testified that the Tatmadaw's brutal campaign against the Rohingya was a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" and "without regard for basic principles of international law";

Whereas, in his nomination hearing, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that he would oversee an interagency review to determine whether Burma's crimes against the Rohingya amount to genocide;

Whereas, after many years of hosting hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees while bearing other internal challenges, media report that the Government of Bangladesh is growing weary of hosting the Rohingya, building new barriers to restrict the ability for Rohingyas to work, access education, buy SIM cards, learn the local language, exercise their right to freedom of expression, including peaceful assembly, or move freely;

Whereas, in a step toward reducing the refugee population on the mainland, the Government of Bangladesh has relocated over 10,000 Rohingya from Cox's Bazar to Bhasan Char, a flood-prone island in the Bay of Bengal, but has denied the United Nations access to the island and the ability to undertake independent technical and protection assessments to verify whether the island is safe and habitable to host this vulnerable population;

Whereas it has not been verified that Rohingya refugees' ongoing relocation to Bhasan Char is fully informed and voluntary, as required under international law;

Whereas the United Nations Refugee Agency reports that 2,400 Rohingya refugees chose dangerous boat journeys to escape their limited futures in Bangladesh over the last year, leading to at least 200 deaths and missing persons;

Whereas efforts to force the return to Burma of more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees now living in Bangladesh would constitute a gross violation of international human rights law and would come at increased risk during this time of political instability and military rule;

Whereas the fundamental operational principles of voluntary repatriation must be based on informed consent, legal and physical safety, dignity, and the absence of any form of coercion, economic or otherwise, as well as the full protection of the returnees' human rights, including the right to restore their citizenship status in Burma;

Whereas approximately 236,000 Rohingya refugees returned to Burma from Bangladesh under the terms of a 1992 agreement after a previous bout of violence against the Rohingya forced them to flee, only to face continued denial of restoration of their citizenship, prejudice, violence, and persecution, and in many instances forced to live in internally displaced persons camps with their freedom of movement restricted;

Whereas Burma's 1982 citizenship law stripped Rohingya of their Burmese citizenship, rendering them stateless;

Whereas the Government of Burma continues to systematically discriminate against the Rohingya people, including by restricting registration of Rohingya births and denying them freedom of movement as well as access to healthcare, land, education, marriage, voting rights, and political participation;

Whereas, on November 23, 2017, the Government of Burma and the Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement, known as the "Arrangement", on the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State, which is modeled after the 1992 repatriation agreement between Burma and Bangladesh;

Whereas the Arrangement includes references to restoring normalcy and human rights in Rakhine State, ensuring refugee re-

turns comply with international standards of safety, dignity, and voluntariness, and commencing a process to address root causes in line with the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations;

Whereas Rohingya refugees currently hosted in Bangladesh demonstrated in protest against an initial November 2018 repatriation plan between the Governments of Bangladesh and Burma, citing concerns for their security and the lack of meaningful political reforms in Burma to include restoration of their full citizenship; and

Whereas, following the 2021 coup, human rights groups, humanitarian actors, and refugees in Cox's Bazar continue to express grave concerns about the heightened risk for a renewed campaign of genocide in Burma, calling for a halt to any efforts to move or adjust the status of any Rohingya persons: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the February 1, 2021, military coup that deposed an elected government and cast a pall over years of hope, investment, and progress toward a more democratic and free Burma;

(2) expresses deep concern for the safety and security of the hundreds of thousands of Burmese people who have taken to the streets to protest the coup, and condemns the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force for their acts of terrorism against Burma's civilian populations;

(3) calls on Burmese authorities to allow journalists, human rights organizations, United Nations monitors, and humanitarian actors full and safe access to every part of the country, including Rakhine State, to ensure that humanitarian needs of all internally displaced persons are being met and that human rights of every population in Burma, including ethnic minorities, can be monitored and protected;

(4) asks the governments of countries neighboring Burma, including Bangladesh and Thailand, to provide immediate, direct cross-border assistance to adequately address humanitarian needs of all refugees suffering from ongoing Burma Army militarization and offensives;

(5) welcomes steps by the Government of Bangladesh and other neighboring states to receive Rohingya refugees, but raises substantial concern regarding reports of refugees being turned away or moved into holding centers, as well as for the health and safety of all refugees, including those currently living in camps at Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char;

(6) appeals to Bangladesh and other countries in the region to commit to providing safe harbor for Rohingya refugees, until their human rights, including their right to restoration of full citizenship, can be guaranteed;

(7) calls on international organizations and all host governments, including the Government of Bangladesh, to ensure improved access for Rohingya refugees to basic services, education, and livelihood opportunities;

(8) asks the Government of Bangladesh to allow the international community, including the United Nations and other human rights and humanitarian actors, full and complete access to all Rohingya in Bangladesh while refraining from any forced relocation of Rohingya refugees into temporary settlements or other "model villages";

(9) urges the Government of Bangladesh to grant the United Nations access to conduct independent, comprehensive technical and protection assessments of Bhasan Char and to verify that any relocations of Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char are voluntary and done with fully informed consent;